

Marine Reserves: Goals & Expectations — A Case Study

Buck Island Reef National Monument

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Original Buck Island Reef NM Boundary



Restricted Fishing
Allowed
445 acres

"Marine Garden"
Protected Area
259 acres



Overfishing & White Band Disease







Diadema die-off, Hurricanes





& Increased Visitation





Coral Bleaching & ESA listing of Elkhorn coral





The Monument... failed to "preserve and protect"

- only encompassed barrier reef
- marine life ecology not addressed
- essential habitats not included
- unsustainable fishing pressures in and outside the park



Buck Island Reef ...

- 2001 Presidential Proclamation add 18135 acres of submerged lands
- Only fully protected marine area in NPS; core MPA for STX
- Barrier reef mgmt to coral reef ecosystem management and more...







GMP Public Scoping





The "Big Sell"

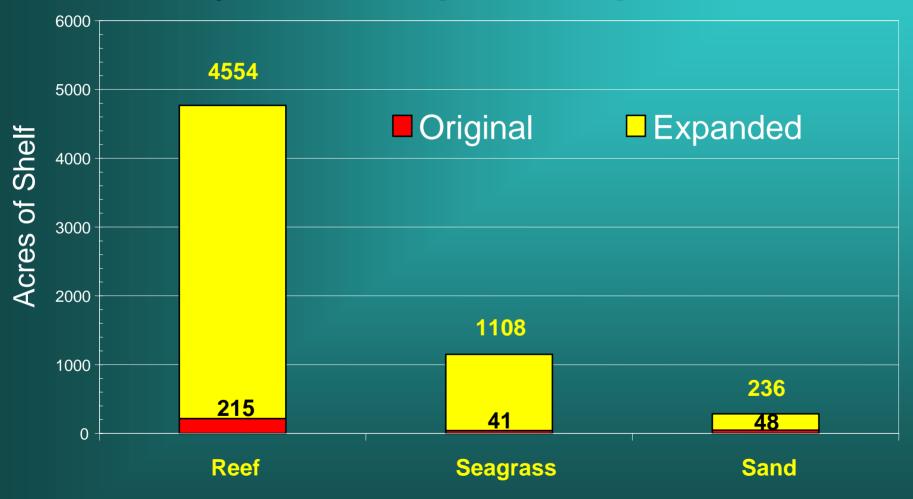


Buck Island Reef National Monument Percent of St. Croix Shelf





Ecosystem components protected



Habitat Type



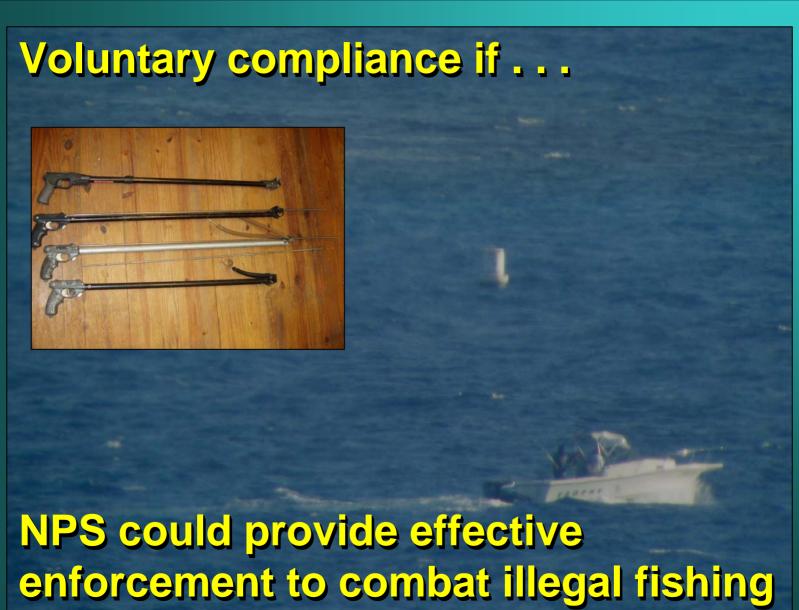
Benefits to Marine Resources



- · Improved habitat
- Improved fishery
- Improve tourism

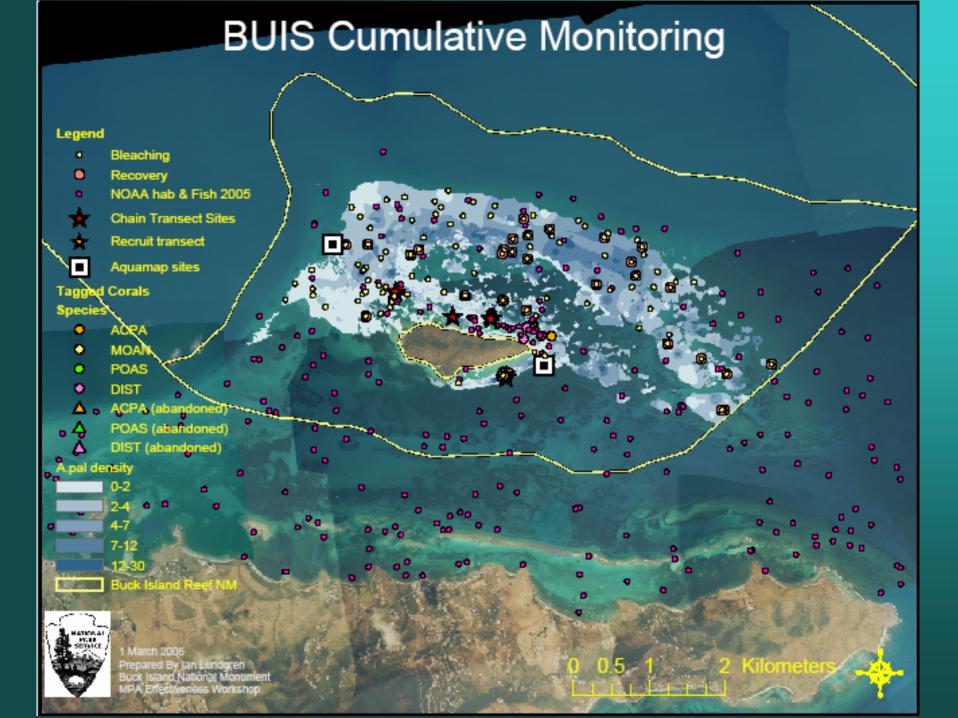














Marine Reserve Results

- Healthier ecosystem
- Improved habitat
- More stress resistant
- All components present and functioning









Can we -

- •Collect the data to support or refute marine reserve effectiveness?
- •Pick the correct array of data to show results in 2, 5, 10, 20 years?
- •And interpret the result correctly?



I believe we can!

